

A

## REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

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 Saturday, June 30. 1705.
 

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**I** Believe nothing would Contribute more to making us good Christians, than to be able to look upon all Things, Causes and Persons here, with the same Eyes as we do when we are just looking into Eternity: Death sets all in a clear Light, and when a Man is, as it were in the very Boat, pushing off from the Shoar of the World, his last Views of it being Abstracted from Interests, Hopes, or Wishes, and Influenc'd by the near View of the future State, must be Clear, Unbias'd, and Impartial.

I am moving us in like manner to realize the Pressures, Miseries, and Disasters of a Declining Confederacy, to look on our selves in a fair way to be Conquer'd, and View the *French*, as if Over-running our Neighbour the *Dutch*, and preparing a too powerful force to Invade us.

I am moving People to Reflect how Ridiculous would all our little Quarrels among our selves then appear? How Natural would it be for all Sides to say to one another, *Come, come. here is like to be other Work for us to do ;*

*this is not a time of Day to Quarrel, and find fault, when the Enemy is at the Door ready to Ruine and Destroy us all.*

To Quarrel among our selves, has always the same Unreasonableness, and tends to the same Ruine and Destruction; the Difference only lies in this, that while we put the Evil Day far from us, we do not see the Necessity of Union with the same Eyes.

Now as realizing these Mischiefs, would make a True Representation of the Sordid, Unreasonable Humour of private Dissention, and Party Strife among us, to, tho' the Disasters were never to come, the Discovery would have this Use, That Strife and Ill Nature would be represented in their Native Colours; we should see the Baseness of Publick Agreement, and the Necessity too, for the Business would be *not to form a thing that was not*, but to remove the Clouds and Mists from a thing *that is*, that it might be represented in its own Shape, and that the Beauty of Peace being shown, joy'd to the Necessity of it, all Men might be in Love with the

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Piſture, and ſincerely joyn in the Practice.

Were the Confederacy Broke, the *French* at the Door, and all in a Fright, what would the People do? Would not they Tear our Incentive Papers, and Stone the Authors? Would it not be a Monſtrous Inconſiſtency, to ſee People Buſie, and Irritated againſt one another; ſome Preaching up Fire and Fagot, ſome Railing at High Church, ſome at Low Church, talking of Places and Preferments, who ſhould have them, and *who not*, bringing in Perſecuting Clauſes, and Tacking Occaſional Bills, Would not this be like *Nero's Fiddling*, when *Rome* was on Fire.

For God ſake, Gentlemen, let us have the ſame Opinion now, tho' Bleſſed be God, the *French* are not Aſhoar here, yet the things have the ſame Tendency, the Miſchiefs look the ſame way, the Party has the ſame Deſign, the Spirit is of the ſame Piece.

Theſe Quarrels and Feuds tend to Confuſion and Embroiling us with one another in Parties and Sides, Neighbour againſt Neighbour, Father againſt Son, and Son againſt Father; theſe Confuſions ſerve to Retard our Preparations, Weaken our Strength, Leſſen our Friends, and Expoſe us to our Enemies, *Private Quarrels Encreaſe to Publick*; Encreaſing Animofities grow up to Tumults, Ryots, Fightings, and all ſorts of Violence, theſe at Home to Deſtroying our Alliances and Confederacies Abroad, and that to being Over-run by our Enemies; and thus, Gentlemen, I think I have brought the *French* to your Doors, *God Grant you may never make the Experiment*, leaſt it ſhould be too late to help it, when you ſhould find I was no falſe Prophet.

But let this be how it will, theſe being the Native Conſequences of our Strife, the Negative is an, abſolutely neceſſary Remedy; let us therefore Diſcourſe of theſe things *as preſent*, is not Peace as neceſſary *before* any Diſaſter, in Order to prevent it, as it would *be afterwards*, in Order to Retrieve it?

What would the World ſay, of the *Engliſh* Nation, if nothing could bring them to Peace, but Publick Diſaſters?

Let us go and Petition the *French* to give us Peace at Home, by Beating us Abroad;

our Condition muſt be very bad indeed, that nothing can be thought of ſo Eſſectual to Reconciling us abſolutely, as to be firſt *half Ruin'd* to bring us to think.

And yet this has often been our Caſe; let us but look back to the Days within our Memory, when in the latter part of the Reign of King *Charles the Second*, the *Papiſh Plot* had Alarm'd this Nation.

I ſhall not Examine what Artifice gave ſo ſtrange a Turn to Affairs here, that what with the Cunning of the Criminals, the Mean Character of the Evidence, and the Chagrin of the Great Ones, that Storm blowed off, and the Notion of a Plot became the common Banter of the Age.

From thence a furious Diviſion began, between the *Church* and the *Diſſenters*, theſe believ'd a Plot, thoſe Banter'd it, theſe Expected the Effect of a *Papiſh* Conſpiracy, thoſe Ridicul'd the Thoughts, and buſſoon'd the whole Nation out of it.

At laſt Providence thought fit to bring it to a nearer Proſpect, King *JAMES* begins his Reign, and now the Scene changes, *Papery* that had been ſo long made a Jeſt of, and had tried all the Tricks and Artifices in the World, got an Eaſie and Peaceable Admiſſion to the Crown; the Church of *England*, that had ſo much abuſed the *Diſſenters* for ſuggeſting this Danger, now open their Eyes, tho' too late they find the Flood Encreaſing, the Sluces Drawn up, and all the Open Deſtruction coming upon them, they could imagine, or fear ſuggeſt; they find the *Diſſenters* Careſs'd and Encourag'd, and the *Church* ſingl'd out for the firſt Blow.

When the Church of *England* found her ſelf in this Danger, *What did ſhe do*? Even juſt what I ſay, we ſhould all do now; ſhe turns about to the *Diſſenters*, talks of Peace and Union, Forbearance and Love, Infinite Sermons flow from the Pulpit, on the healing Subject of Peace, Treats the *Diſſenters* with Terms of Brotherhood, Friendſhip, Charity, and Chriſtian Love, talks to them of ſome few Differences, ſome Doubtful and Indifferent Matters in which they may differ, and yet maintain Charity as *Chriſtians*, and Peace as *Engliſh* Men; and what's the Occaſion of all this? What brought the *Church* to this Temper?



Temper? Why truly the same thing Gentlemen, that I am now Suggesting; *Papery* was upon the Throne, High-Commission Court Erected, *Magdalen* College made a beginning of the Churches Ruine, and this brought these Gentlemen to their Senses, and so it would all of us; Trouble, Distress, Foreign Invasion, loss of our Armies or Fleets would bring us all to our Senses, would open all our Eyes; the *French* Fleet upon our Coasts, *Dover* made as *Diep*; our Coasts Insulted, our Towns Bombarded, our Ships Destroyed, two or three such Fleets as we now Expect from *Lisbon*, Taken; our Ports Block'd up, a *French* Squadron riding at the *Nore*, and their Grand Fleet at *St Helens*, and our own Fleet Beaten; these things would bring us to Peace, we should be all Friends in an Instant, and all these Horrid Feuds and Distractions would look just as Ridiculous as they really are in their own Nature.

For God's sake, and for your own sakes, Gentlemen, learn the Doctrine without making the Experiment, don't force Providence to ruin you, to save you from Ruine; don't bring your selves to such an Absolute Necessity of Discipline, that you must be taught Wisdom by your own Calamities.

Danger is always best at a Distance, and if we would but Agree, we might keep it there; if not, I may easily foretel the Consequence, and never pass for a Prophet.

If we go on to Quarrel, if High Church and Low Church will Tear one another to Pieces, if *Whig* and *Tory* resolve to Ruine one another, you may Expect what you please, but if you are not all Ruin'd by it in the End, it must be from some or one of these Causes.

1. That your Enemies are as Blind as you, and cannot see the Advantages you put into your Hands: Or,

2. That you grow wiser just in time, and take one another by the hand just at last Gasp: Or,

3. That God Almighty must work some Miracle to save you, and deal with your Enemies out of the usual Course of his Providence, put in some Exception to General Rule of Causes and Consequences, and Or-

der something in the World that never happen'd before.

What Reason we have to Expect any of these Extraordinaries? and how wise we are to run the hazard, that I leave to the General Consideration.

### Advertuement to the Author of the Daily Courant.

THE last Review but one, the Author of this Paper took some Notice of a Piece of News the *Daily Courant* Translated from the *French*, viz.

*That there was a Report of a Great Disaster befallen the Confederate Fleets.*

I find the Author of that Paper takes great Exceptions at the Unmercifulness of the Observation.

I acknowledge beforehand, that had I known the Government would have resent-ed it, had he been the worst Enemy I have, I would have taken no Notice of it. In my Observation of it, I Declar'd I believ'd he had no Ill Design in it; and I thought I must by that have clear'd my self of any Ill Design against him Personally.

As to the Discretion of Publishing such a thing without any Observations of his own attending it, as in other Cases has been done, I understand he does not Defend it; and if he does, more may be said to that; I affirm still, that to spread even the Suggestions of our Enemies, other than to Confute them, is fatal and very mischievous to the Publick Peace; I believe his to be Inadvertent, I design'd him no Personal Injury, and hope I have done him none; I clear him of Design, but as to the rest, I believe I may Defie any Man to tell a thing Honestly more like a telling it Maliciously, than this; no manner of Remark being made either before or after.

Upon this, I think my Charity and Respect too, was plain, giving my Judgment, That he had no Ill Design, as to the Discretion of it, let him Defend it that can; and as to his Elaborate Defence, I think he takes a great




great deal of Pains to make himself more Criminal than I Imagin'd him to be.

**W**Hereas a Proposal has been made by the Author of this Paper, for Subscriptions to a Book in Folio, Entitled, *Jure Divino*; or, *A Survey upon Tyranny and Passive Obedience*. To which, Abundance of Gentlemen having long since Subscrib'd, and the Time seeming long for its coming out, some very Good Reasons having obliged the Author to put a stop to it,

These are to give Notice, That the said Book is now in the Press, and shall go on to be Printed with all Expedition: And for the further Satisfaction of the Subscribers, the Sheets may be seen every Day by any that please to give themselves that Trouble, at Mr. J. Matthews, as they come out of the Press.

All those Gentlemen, who have Collected Subscriptions for this Book are Desir'd to send in an Account of what Number they have taken, there being no more to be Printed, than shall be given Notice, as Subscribed; and, if they please, to Pay the Subscription Money to Mr. Matthews in Pilkington Court, Little Britain, Receipts will be given there for it:

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